

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting the chilled water tubes in the evaporator of an absorption machine in the event the chilled water flow[[s]] through the evaporator is terminated while the machine is running that includes the steps of:
 - monitoring the flow of chilled water through the evaporator tubes,
 - signaling the machine controller to initiate a machine shut down procedure in the event the chilled water flow has terminated; and
 - delivering a working fluid from a high temperature region of the machine to said evaporator to raise the temperature within the evaporator above a level at which the water in said evaporator tubes freezes.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said working fluid is a refrigerant.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said refrigerant is drawn from a high temperature generator.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the refrigerant is gravity feed fed to the evaporator through a feed line.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 that includes the further step of mounting a normally closed solenoid valve in said feed line, said valve being arranged to open when the shut down procedure is initiated.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said working fluid is an absorptive solution.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said solution is drawn from a system condenser.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said solution is gravity feed fed to the evaporator through a feed line.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 that includes the further step of maintaining the refrigerant pump operative upon initiation of the shut down procedure whereby the working fluid in the evaporator sump is re-circulated through the evaporator.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said solution is drawn from the absorber.

11. (Original) Apparatus for preventing water in the chilled water tubes of an absorption machines evaporator from freezing in the event the chilled water flow through the evaporator is terminated, wherein said apparatus includes:

means for sensing the flow of chilled water through the evaporator and sending a signal to a programmed controller for shutting down said machine,
a feed line for delivering a high temperature working fluid to the evaporator;
and

a remotely controlled normally closed, valve in the feed line which is opened by a signal from said controller when the chilled water flow has terminated whereby said high temperature working fluid is delivered into the evaporator.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said feed line is arranged to connect a high temperature generator with the evaporator to feed refrigerant from said generator to said evaporator.

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13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the refrigerant is gravity feed fed into said evaporator.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said feed line is arranged to feed solution from a condenser to the evaporator